

# Lucy Robbins Welles LIBRARY

## Policy Statement for Meeting Rooms

### I. Statement of Purpose

The Board of Directors of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library views the use of the meeting rooms as an extension of library services. The rooms should be available to the library community in its broadest sense and reflect the educational, cultural, social, and recreational role the library plays.

The Board subscribes to Article IV of the Library Bill of Rights which states that facilities should be made available to the public served by the given library on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

### II. Availability and application for use

1. There are two (2) meeting rooms available for public use by groups.
  - a. first floor Community Room (capacity—60 people)
  - b. second floor Richard B. Lienhard Room, accessible by elevator (capacity—16 people)
2. **Meeting rooms are available for use Monday-Thursday 9-9; Friday 9-5, and Saturday 10-5. Meeting rooms are not available for use on Sundays.**

Availability of the meeting rooms shall be on a first-come first served basis. The following priorities will prevail in case of conflict:

- a. a group affiliated with the library
- b. a Newington-based group
- c. a regional (greater Hartford or greater New Britain) group
- d. an out-of-region group

The fact that a group is permitted to use the rooms does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the group's policies or beliefs by the Library or the Town.

3. Organizations other than library-related shall not exceed four regular meetings during each year. The year shall begin in **July** and end in **June**.
4. Rooms may be reserved no more than eight weeks in advance of the meeting date, and only one meeting may be booked at a time.
5. Written application for each date must be filed at the Information Desk. It must be signed and returned to the library before the room is used. **Forms are available at the Information Desk, or on the library's website at <http://www.newingtonct.gov/library>. Library staff will respond to your application via telephone or email within 48 hours.**
6. The Library **Business Manager**, in consultation with the **Library Director**, is authorized to determine the appropriate use of the room. In case of denial of use, appeal may be made to the Library Board.

### III. General rules and limitations

1. Groups using the meeting rooms will be responsible for:
  - a. setting up chairs, tables, etc., (50 chairs and 8 tables are available)
  - b. proper supervision,
  - c. restoring the room to the same condition in which it was found, and
  - d. costs arising from any damage or loss during use.

2. Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the library facility.
3. Refreshments may be served. In the first floor community room, the kitchen area may be utilized and must be left in the condition in which it was found.
4. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
5. If a group requires audio-visual equipment, the user must be thoroughly trained in advance and be held responsible for any damage to hardware or software.
6. Storage of materials before or after the reserved time is prohibited.
7. No material may be affixed to wall surfaces or tackboards without prior permission.
8. Telephone messages will be taken for meeting room attendees **only** in emergency situations.
9. The library reserves the right to seek references of any group before booking the room.
10. Under no circumstances shall the sponsor of a meeting open to the public require sign-in of attendees nor should any follow-up contact be made at the sponsor's initiation.
11. Groups and businesses may use the rooms for internal business meetings. **No admission may be charged; no products or services may be advertised, solicited or sold. Groups using the meeting rooms may not imply that their programs are sponsored, co-sponsored or approved by the library, unless written permission has been given by the Library Director.**
12. No fees are charged for use of the **meeting** rooms during library hours; however, donations to the library are encouraged.
13. Any groups using the rooms who bring children to the meeting may not leave the children unsupervised in other areas of the library.
14. Anyone violating these rules may be asked to leave and/or denied future use of the facilities.
15. The Library Board and the Town of Newington or their employees or agents are not liable for any claims rising out of use of this facility.

**IV. The Library Board reserves the right to modify sections II and III at any time in response to changing conditions.**

95 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111-2645  
**Voice: 860-665-8700 Fax: 860-667-1255**  
<http://www.newington.lib.ct.us>

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Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board of Directors